

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/907,513	KERZENDORF ET AL.
	Examiner Ronald D. Hartman Jr.	Art Unit 2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the RCE filed on 8/30/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-15 and 17-29 (renumbered as 1-20, respectively).
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 9-15 and 17-29 are allowed over the prior art of record.

As per claims 9-15 and 17-29, specifically independent claims 9 and 19, the prior art of record fails to teach a method for determining an unknown state of a system using a measured value wherein a cost function is determined and approximation regions of the cost function are chosen so as to allow each region to have its respective local minimum determined, and wherein the regions are chosen so as to cover the entire state region, and wherein the local minimums are compared with one another so as to determine the global minimum of the cost function, in combination with the other claimed features and or limitations as claimed.

It is noted that the closest available prior art was issued to Cohn et al., in which a simulated annealing method for optimization of a cost function is disclosed. Cohn discloses the partitioning of the state region into separate, smaller regions, wherein each region is then solved independently of the other regions. However, Cohn et al. discloses that the regions are chosen arbitrarily, while the instant invention chooses the regions based on the measured output of the system, and this difference, forms the basis for the indication of allowable subject matter since the instant invention provides a more accurate approach to optimizing a complex cost function since arbitrarily choosing the regions would lead to problems finding a global minimum in cost functions which are discontinuous in nature since the calculations could get stuck in a local minimum and therefore an optimized solution would not be found in a timely manner. By separating the region into smaller regions, based on the outputs of the system, this problem is more easily avoided and therefore the instant invention allows for a more effective way of finding the global minimum of a cost function.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald D. Hartman Jr. whose telephone number is

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(571) 272-3684. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 11:00 - 8:30 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on (571) 272-3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ronald D Hartman Jr.

Patent Examiner

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November 7, 2005


Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600